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PSC-M-2
17 November 1953

PROCUREMENT SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
on
FOREIGN LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

Minutes of the second meeting held at 1400, 17 November 1953, in 2125
"M" Bldg.

I. The following representatives were present:

Mr. Roger Gifford, State, observer
Mr. Theodore Georgevitch, G-2, member
Major M. F. Donelan, AFOIN, member
Mr. George Pugh, AFOIN, observer
Mr. Iver Iglesiasrud, AFOIN, observer
Mr. Roger Keeney, AFOIN, observer
Cmdr. H. F. Perrenot, ONI, member
Lt. Cmdr. W. C. Kruse, ONI, alternate

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II. Approval of Minutes

In the absence of the Chairman, the meeting was chaired by the Secretary who opened the meeting by requesting and receiving approval of the minutes of the 20 October 1953 meeting.

III. Reports

1. Collection. -

The Air Force representative stated that his report, concerning strengthening of the field collection efforts, was in preparation and might be available in time for the third meeting.

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2. Centralization of Records. -

The report by the CIA representative was issued prior to the meeting to permit its study at the meeting. Its subject was two-fold: centralization of records concerning IAC receipts of Soviet Bloc serial publications and coordination of requirements for serial publications.

3. Discussion. -

The Chairman pro-tem reviewed the report and suggested that it be considered as one aspect of the problems involved and not necessarily as a means for the solution of those problems.

Consensus of opinion seemed to indicate that the report emphasized the need for selectivity in the procurement of foreign language publications, in particular serial publications. An Air Force representative suggested that Part D of the Monthly List of Russian Accessions, those USSR publications identified but not located in the U. S., be considered a basis for developing want lists of critical USSR titles. He added, however, that the information contained in Part D was somewhat jeopardized by the period of time between the receipt of such information and its publication. He felt that CIA might contribute one person to the MLRA activity to offset this lag in reporting. The State representative agreed to the value of Part D and other critical titles for want lists, and suggested that the Foreign Service posts be given lists of such titles with indications of the gaps or missing issues of same in the Washington repositories. Such positive lists could then be utilized in the field as guide requirements for voluntary selection by the PPOs.

The respective values of positive and negative listings were discussed at length. The ORR observer suggested that a three-fold list, to include critical and/or hard-to get titles, titles normally available, and titles of no value to intelligence should be drawn up for guidance in field procurement. It was emphasized that titles should here be construed to mean as well subject headings of required information.

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The proposal for a central registry of serial publications as suggested in the working paper was considered basically sound. Contributions from representative offices in the form of reports on their holdings of foreign language serials could constitute one source for the registry. Publications already in existence, for example the Monthly List of Russian Accessions and the East European Accessions List, would serve as initial checklists to evaluate holdings in other offices. From information thus acquired, the issuance of accession lists and indexes of foreign language serial publications would appear to be both feasible and desirable.

The means of refining requirements for the collection of such serials was seen as a logical sequence to the reporting of material presently in intelligence repositories. It was pointed out that at present the high degree of duplication and/or error in requesting titles or in drawing up critical lists was due to the lack of information on holdings in the several repositories involved.

It was hoped that a preliminary checklist of USSR serial titles, both back issue and current receipts, held by Foreign Branch of CIA Library would soon be available as an aid to the committee.

IV. Area Dossiers

The proposal for area dossiers, as suggested at the first meeting of the committee, was again touched upon. The acting chairman reviewed the project for compiling part or parts of such dossiers in the Foreign Branch and suggested that this could be one additional means to implement the refining of collection requirements.

V. The next meeting will be held in 2125 "M" Bldg. at 1400 on 15 December 1953

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